

## **Co-design Session 1 Notes**

### **10am - 12.30pm, 21st November 2018**

**Attendees:** Cath Keane (Neighbourhood Team Lead, MCC), Charlotte Goldsborough (Co-ordinator, LGBT Foundation), Claire Evans (Chief Exec, 4CT), George Devlin (Chair, LMCP), Keiran Barnes (Equality Team Leader, MCC), Lynne Stafford (Chief Exec, Gaddum Centre), Mike Wild (Chief Executive, Macc), Steve Conway (Charity, Social Enterprise & Community Development Consultant), Steve Higgins (Community Asset Transfer Manager, MCC), Mark Nesbitt (Exec Member, Manchester BME Network), Elle Johnson-Morris (Business Support Apprentice, Our Manchester Funds, MCC)

**Apologies:** Amna Abdul (Exec Member, Manchester BME Network), Jane Thorpe (Acting Deputy Director of MHCC), Michelle Scattergood (Chief Executive, Breakthrough UK), Sarah Ives (Commissioning Manager, MHCC).

This document includes the working agreement for the co-design group, the givens of the co-design group, and a summary of the key discussion points.

#### **Co-design group working agreement**

- Confidentiality
  - Specific comments and things that are said in the room will remain in the room, unless they are agreed to be shared by the individual and group.
  - Communications on the co-design process and infrastructure contract will be shared outside of the group - information and session notes will go on to Manchester City Councils (MCC's) and Macc's websites.
- An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of the process is to be completed - this will be an iterative EIA throughout the co-design process.
- Every member of the group will declare any interests.
- We listen to each other and we're open and honest.
- The focus of the process will be on looking forward, not back over the history.
- This process is specifically on co-designing the MCC/Manchester Health & Care Commissioning (MHCC) Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure contract, not the wider system - We will look at the bigger picture and what may be needed to achieve our objectives, but the co-design is specifically for the MCC/MHCC VCSE infrastructure contract.
- Will maintain a focus on the Our Manchester Strategy.

#### **Co-design Givens/Boundaries**

The known givens for MCC/MHCC are listed within the co-design boundary document. The co-design group asked questions around other potential givens and suggested adding the following givens/clarity:

- Whilst there is a desire within MCC/MHCC to have a single infrastructure contract rather than two or more separate contracts, it is not definitive. If the co-design group

were to make recommendations either way this would be taken forward to the Our Manchester VCS Programme Board and MHCC Executive.

- The contract will be awarded to a Manchester based organisation.
- It accepted and a given by all that Manchester needs and will continue to have a VCSE infrastructure contract.
- Information gathered from the co-design process for the Our Manchester VCS (OMVCS) Grants Programme on the topic of infrastructure will be used as part of this co-design process. This is because the work is still relevant and sits within the same Our Manchester strategic context. However, we will not be going any further back than this work.
- Everyone agreed that the VCSE sector is already making a massive contribution in the city, and more specifically in meeting the outcomes of the Our Manchester Strategy and the aims and objective of MHCC. This contract will be to support this contribution and enable even more.
- Whilst organisations might potentially work together to deliver different elements of the future infrastructure contract, all of the group agreed that that still needs to be a single point of access (for information, advice and guidance).

The Programme Team commit to feedback to the co-design group any further clarity around details within the boundaries document/on the VCSE infrastructure contract more generally that we get from senior officers.

### **Key discussion points in Session 1**

- Everyone agreed that the infrastructure contract will and should sit within the context of the Our Manchester Strategy.
- Throughout the session members discussed the need to have high ambitions in line with the Our Manchester strategy, but that objectives need to be prioritised.
- There was debate over whether the contract should focus on the Voluntary and Community sector, not Social Enterprises - Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE). It was argued that work with Social Enterprises could potentially be supported and funded elsewhere by business focused departments and organisations.
- It was agreed by all that the contract should be clear that the infrastructure provider/s is a facilitator and coordinator as well as a provider - the infrastructure provider/s do not necessarily have to be or is always best placed to be the provider of the support to groups.
- It was agreed by all that there needs to be recognition within the contract of the differences and complexities of the sector. For example, the Voluntary Sector is different to the Community Sector. Definitions to be used and it was discussed that this should be reflected in the offer available to organisations.
- The group discussed the ability to try different approaches and have the space to fail or try something else.
- The group discussed the proposed integration of the MCC and MHCC contracts and budgets. As the MHCC element is a quarter of the budget, some of the group proposed that it should only have a quarter of the future contract delivery.
- Members of the group agreed that MCC/MHCC commissioners should not rely too much on the infrastructure contract to do MCC/MHCC functions, and more generally

that the infrastructure contract is only a finite amount of resource and cannot provide everything.

- After confirming that the provider of infrastructure could be one or more organisations, the co-design group agreed that there will still need to be a single point of access (for information advice and guidance) and agreed to add this to the givens.
- The term 'representation' was debated and it was agreed that this would be discussed further in session 2 when the co-design group goes into detail on the reality - what's happening now.
- It was agreed that the provider/s will have to be agile and flexible in terms of representation and that the provider/s have a strong role in helping VCSE organisations to be able to represent/facilitate leadership within the sector.

### **Actions from session 1**

- The Programme Team to write up all of the notes.
- The Programme Team will revise the strategy document to reflect discussions and to take out the prescriptive objectives in point 5.4 (of version 2).
- Comms on the process will be agreed between MCC/Macc.